

MARVEL

3

AARON • KUDER • SMITH • GURU-eFX

AVENGERS FOREVER



And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when the mightiest Avengers of many Earths found themselves united against a common threat--to fight the foes no single universe could withstand!

AVENGERS FOREVER



GHOST RIDER



DEATHLOK



MOON KNIGHT



WONDER MAN



ANT-MAN



VISION



INFINITY THING

When a **Deathlok**, dispatched by the mysterious **Avenger Prime**, appeared on **Earth-616**, both he and **Robbie Reyes**, the **Ghost Rider** of that world, were teleported away by a beam of energy. Robbie and Deathlok found themselves on the dystopian **Earth-818**, ruled by the **Black Skull**.

The **Black Skull** and his cohort the **Ghost Goblin** imprisoned and tortured Deathlok and Robbie, determined to break them. They forced Robbie to fight his own alternate counterparts to survive. Meanwhile, **Tony Stark**, the **Ant-Man** of **Earth-818**, and his ragtag band of surviving **Avengers** have been secretly working to rescue the prisoners.

THE LORDS OF EARTHLY VENGEANCE Part Three "We Who Are About to Avenge"

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WE TOOK
A VOTE.

GIVEN THE
IMPLICATIONS,
THERE IS ONLY
ONE LOGICAL
COURSE OF
ACTION.

WE SIMPLY
MUST ACT.

THIS GUY
I PIECED
TOGETHER
FROM SPARE
PARTS WHEN
I WAS A KID.
GUESS THAT
TELLS YOU HOW
BIG A LOSER
I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN. I HAD TO
BUILD MYSELF
A FRIEND.

AND IN THE
YEARS SINCE
THEN, THE
VISION HAS
BEEN THAT
AND MORE.

LOGICAL?
NOTHING ABOUT
THIS WORLD OF OURS HAS
EVER FELT PARTICULARLY
LOGICAL TO ME. ALL I'VE
EVER HAD TO GO
BY IS MY GUT.

AND MY
GUT SAYS...
THIS IS WORTH
THE RISK.

YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT INVADING THE **BLACK
SKULL'S** MAIN COMPOUND, THE
CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS FOR
HIS **WAR MACHINES**.

THE BLOOD
WILL FLOW IN RIVERS
ACROSS THE
WASTELANDS.

WHEN
DO WE
START?

THE ONLY
KINDA MOVIES
THE WASTELORD
ALLOWS ARE ONES
WHERE PEOPLE
GET FORCEFULLY
IRRADIATED AND
HAVE TO FIGHT
EACH OTHER TO
THE DEATH.

BY THE TIME
HE ESCAPED HIS
CINEMATIC SLAVERY,
SIMON WILLIAMS
HAD BECOME THE
WORLD'S BIGGEST
MOVIE STAR.

THE BLOOD-
DRENCHED
WONDER
MAN.

**MARIAMA
SPECTOR**, A
ONE-WOMAN
GLOBAL
REBELLION, THE
ULTIMATE
SHADOW
SOLDIER.

THE MOON
KNIGHT.

BEN GRIMM,
RENEGADE
ASTRONAUT,
WENT SEARCHING
THE STARS FOR
SOMETHING
HE COULD
USE TO SAVE
THE WORLD.

CAME
BACK AS THE
INFINITY THING.
AS MUCH AS
HE EVER CAME
BACK AT ALL.

THE DOOR
IS OPENING.
IT IS TIME.

WE'D ALL BEEN WAITING
FOR A MOMENT LIKE
THIS. SOME OF US FOR
OUR WHOLE LIVES. WE
KNEW OUR PLAN HAD
TO BE **FOOLPROOF**.

THEN I
GUESS IT'S
UNANIMOUS.

LET'S
GO RESCUE
A **GHOST
RIDER**.



BUT WE MAY HAVE
OVERLOOKED ONE
TINY EVENTUALITY.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
YOU DON'T
WANNA BE
RESCUED?



NOT
LEAVING.

NOT
FINISHED.

FINISHED
WHAT? HAVING
ALL YOUR **FEET**
CUT OFF?

LOOK,
YOU'RE NOT
FROM AROUND
HERE, SO YOU
DON'T KNOW THE
BLACK SKULL LIKE
I DO. HE WON'T
STOP UNTIL HE'S
BROKEN YOU
INTO A MILLION
BLUBBERING
PIECES.

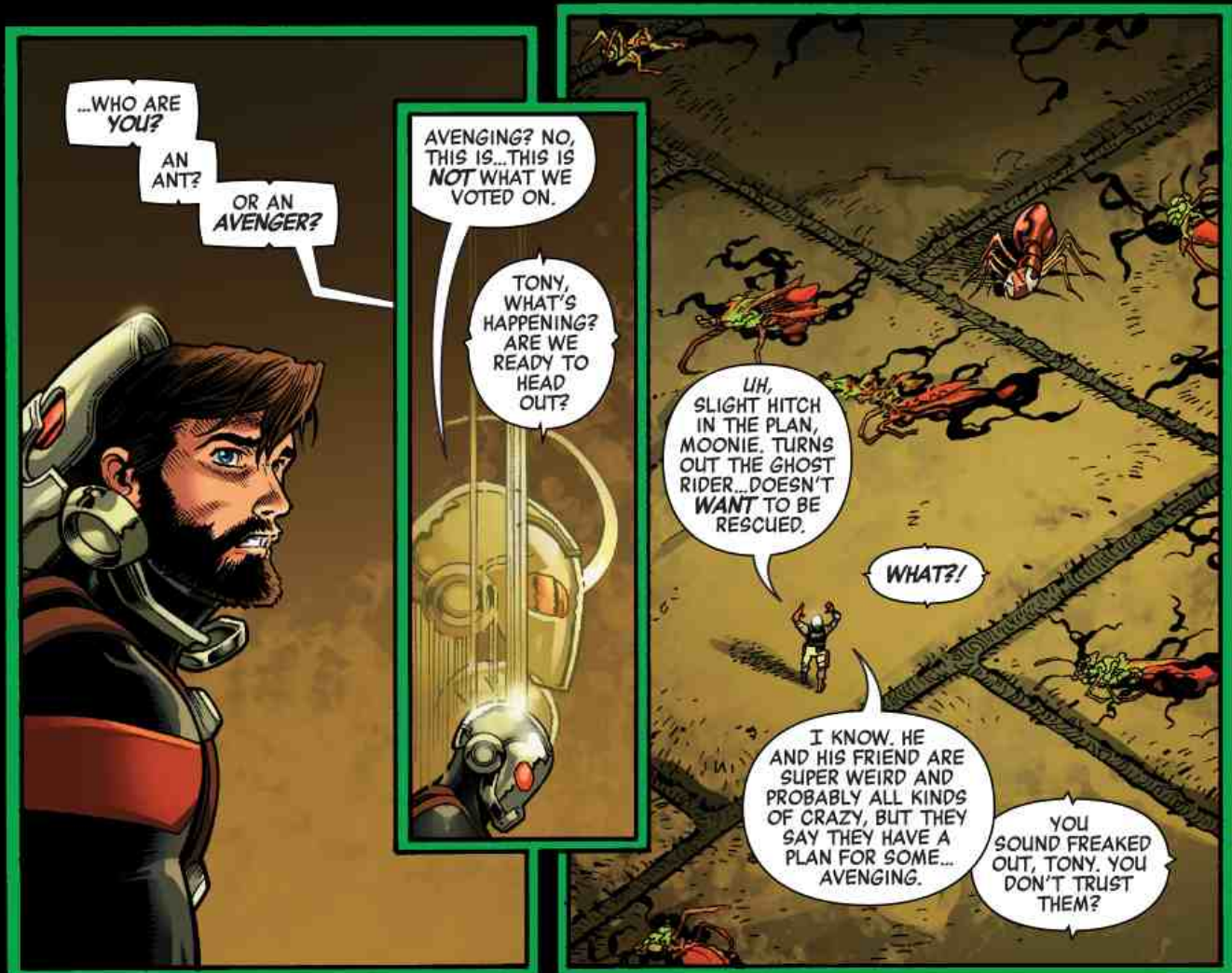
AND
HE'S GOT THE
POWER TO DO IT.
BELIEVE ME,
I KNOW.



THE RIDER
WILL NOT LISTEN
TO YOU, STARK.
THE RIDER WILL
NOT RUN FROM
HIS DESTINY.

YEAH, WELL,
MAYBE YOU COULD
TALK SOME SENSE INTO
HIM, PAL. I MEAN **YOU**
LOOK EVEN WORSE
THAN HE DOES.

THE RIDER AND
I...ARE WHO WE
ARE. THE ONLY
QUESTION IS...



...WHO ARE YOU?

AN ANT?

OR AN AVENGER?

AVENGING? NO, THIS IS...THIS IS **NOT** WHAT WE VOTED ON.

TONY, WHAT'S HAPPENING? ARE WE READY TO HEAD OUT?

UH, SLIGHT HITCH IN THE PLAN, MOONIE. TURNS OUT THE GHOST RIDER...DOESN'T **WANT** TO BE RESCUED.

WHAT?!

I KNOW. HE AND HIS FRIEND ARE SUPER WEIRD AND PROBABLY ALL KINDS OF CRAZY, BUT THEY SAY THEY HAVE A PLAN FOR SOME... AVENGING.

YOU SOUND FREAKED OUT, TONY. YOU DON'T TRUST THEM?



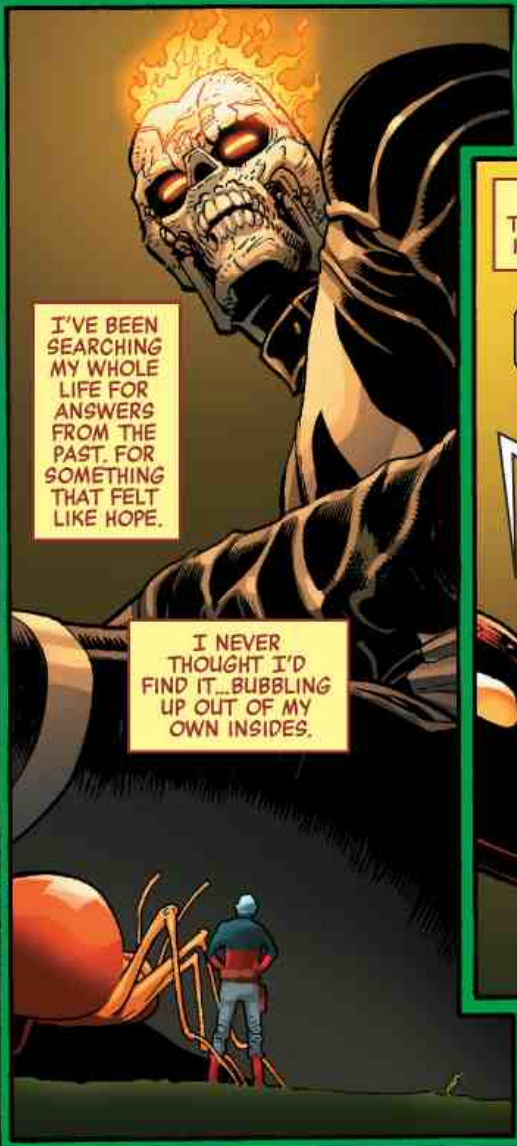
ACTUALLY, WHAT FREAKS ME OUT THE MOST IS THAT THEY TRUST **ME**.

HOW'D YOU GET THEM TO DO THAT?



I JUST SAID "HI, I'M **TONY STARK**."

YEAH. THEY'RE DEFINITELY CRAZY. SO WHAT DO WE DO?



I'VE BEEN SEARCHING MY WHOLE LIFE FOR ANSWERS FROM THE PAST. FOR SOMETHING THAT FELT LIKE HOPE.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D FIND IT...BUBBLING UP OUT OF MY OWN INSIDES.



OR MAYBE THAT'S *VOMIT*. HARD TO TELL.

SKRRRK
GORP
SKRII...

I LOVE YOU TOO, SHELLY, BUT DON'T MAKE ME CRY. I GOTTA GO PRETEND I'M TOUGH.



OKAY. SO TELL ME THIS RIDICULOUS PLAN OF YOURS AGAIN.

AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT, BECAUSE SOONER OR LATER, THE SKULL'S GONNA REALIZE HIS *VENOM ROACHES* HAVE BEEN SQUISHED, AND THEN WE'RE ALL IN BIG HOPING...



...TROUBLE!!!



TONY?
REPEAT
THAT LAST BIT?
SOUNDED LIKE
SCREAMING.

TONY, SAY
AGAIN?

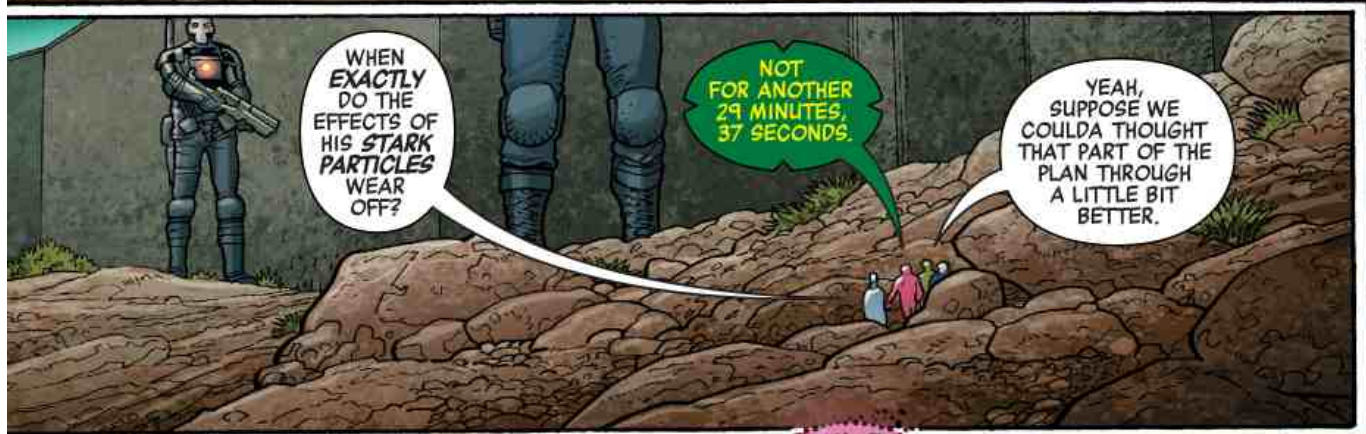


I THINK
WE JUST LOST
ANT-MAN.

HE'S
DEAD?

GUY'S
ALWAYS HAD A
NASTY HABIT OF
STAYING ALIVE. MY
GUESS IS THAT TONY'S
RESCUE MISSION JUST
TURNED INTO A
RESCUE TONY
MISSION.

OKAY
THEN, **DUMB**
QUESTION.



WHEN
EXACTLY
DO THE
EFFECTS OF
HIS **STARK**
PARTICLES
WEAR
OFF?

NOT
FOR ANOTHER
29 MINUTES,
37 SECONDS.

YEAH,
SUPPOSE WE
COULDA THOUGHT
THAT PART OF THE
PLAN THROUGH
A LITTLE BIT
BETTER.



WHAT'S
TO THINK
THROUGH?
WE CAN'T
WAIT.

YOU
GUYS GO AFTER
STARK AND THE
GHOST RIDER. I'LL
KEEP THE WAR
MACHINES
BUSY.

WHAT? ARE
YOU CRAZY, SIMON?
HOW ARE YOU GONNA
DO THAT WHEN YOU'RE
THE SIZE OF A--?

HUURRGK!



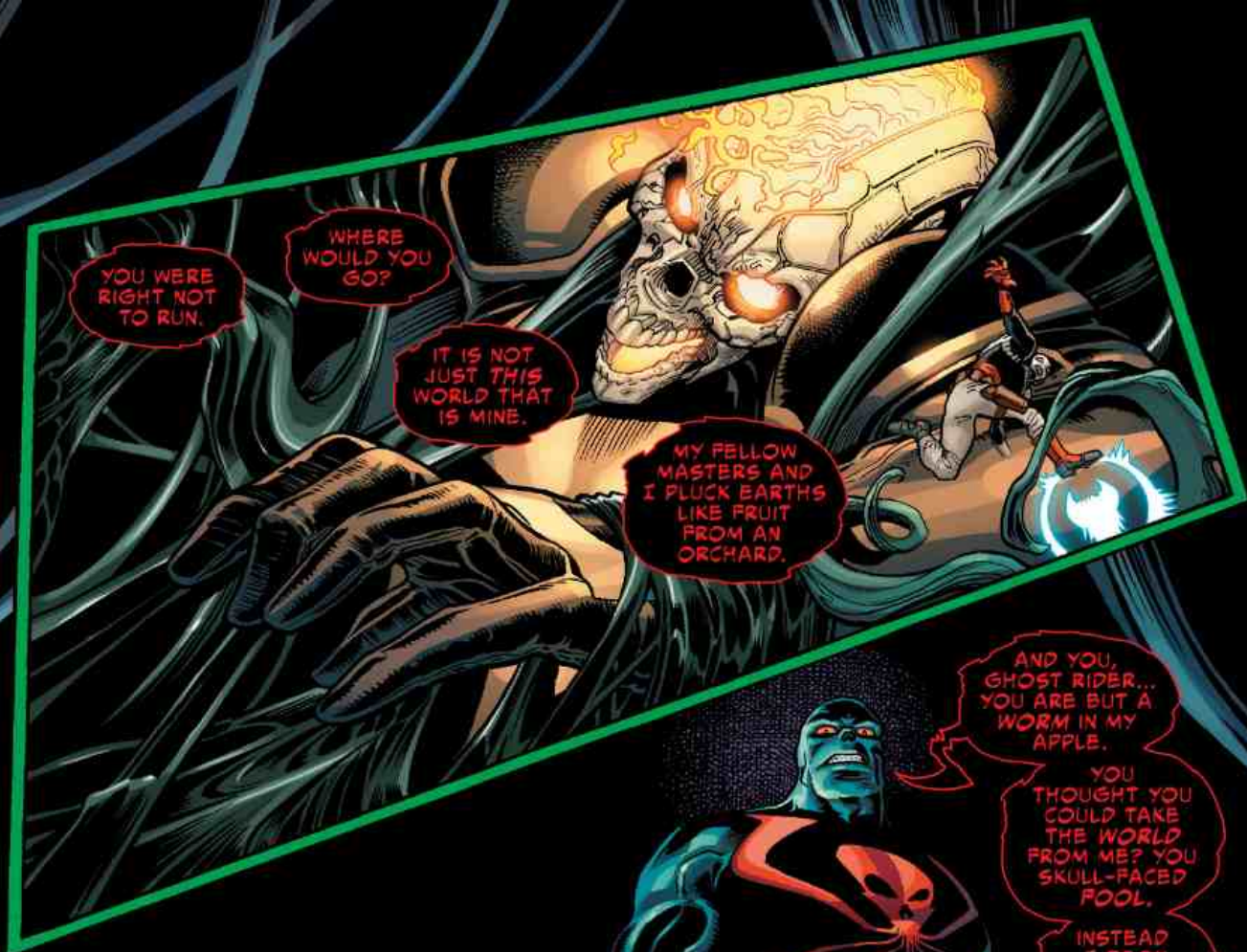
GIIRGH!

HUGH!



RHHRRRGGGH!!!





YOU WERE
RIGHT NOT
TO RUN.

WHERE
WOULD YOU
GO?

IT IS NOT
JUST THIS
WORLD THAT
IS MINE.

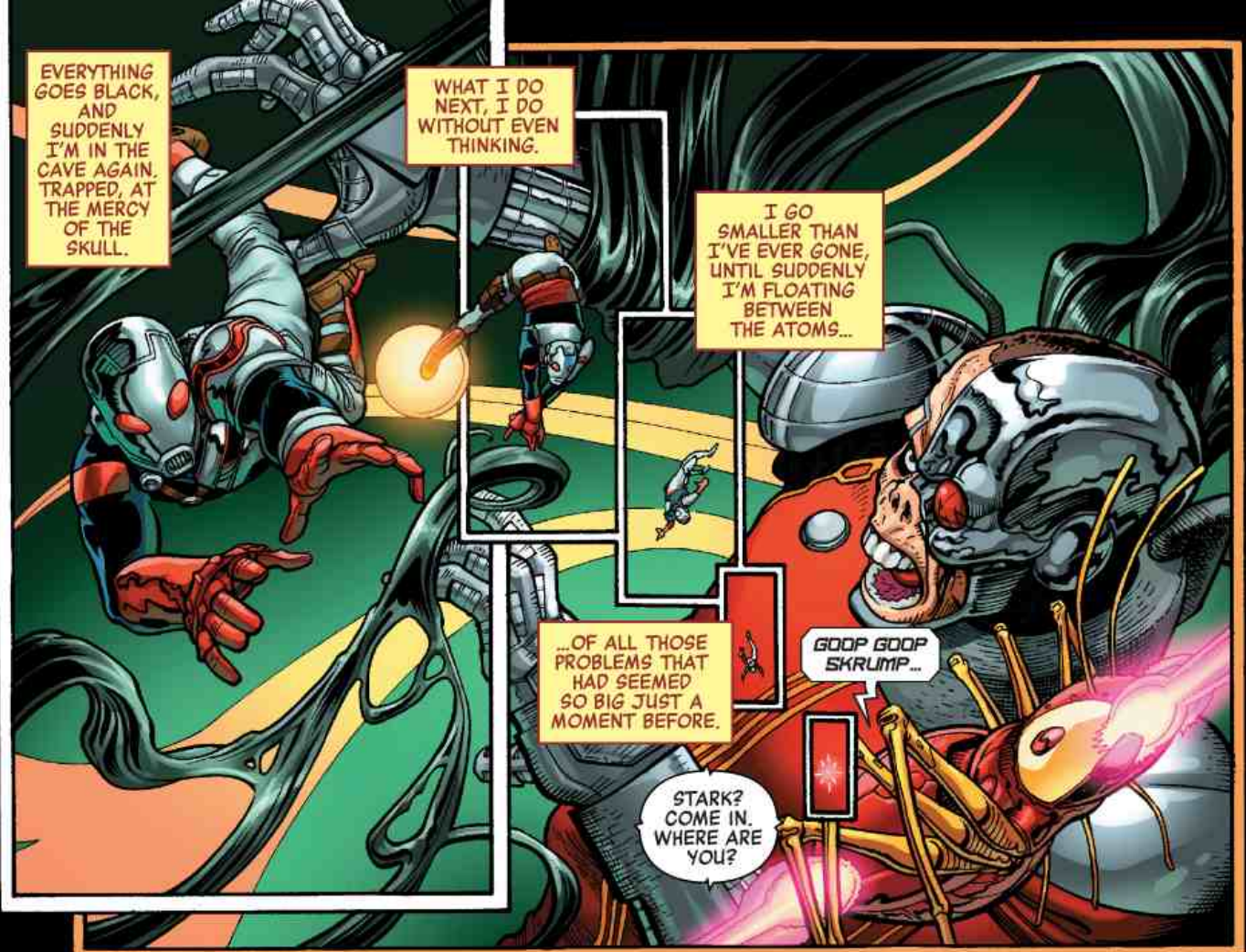
MY FELLOW
MASTERS AND
I PLUCK EARTHS
LIKE FRUIT
FROM AN
ORCHARD.

AND YOU,
GHOST RIDER...
YOU ARE BUT A
WORM IN MY
APPLE.

YOU
THOUGHT YOU
COULD TAKE
THE WORLD
FROM ME? YOU
SKULL-FACED
FOOL.

INSTEAD
I TOOK
YOUR FOOT,
BOY.

NOW I'LL
TAKE THE
REST.



EVERYTHING GOES BLACK, AND SUDDENLY I'M IN THE CAVE AGAIN. TRAPPED, AT THE MERCY OF THE SKULL.

WHAT I DO NEXT, I DO WITHOUT EVEN THINKING.

I GO SMALLER THAN I'VE EVER GONE, UNTIL SUDDENLY I'M FLOATING BETWEEN THE ATOMS...

...OF ALL THOSE PROBLEMS THAT HAD SEEMED SO BIG JUST A MOMENT BEFORE.

GOOP GOOP SKRUMP...

STARK? COME IN. WHERE ARE YOU?

THE ANT DOES NOT KNOW. STARK HAS *SHRUNK* HIMSELF BEYOND THE LIMITS OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS.

WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT. THIS IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE *WORST* RESCUE IN THE HISTORY OF RESCUING.

PERHAPS THERE IS ANOTHER WAY. MY SCANNERS DETECT AN IMMENSE ENERGY SOURCE AHEAD.

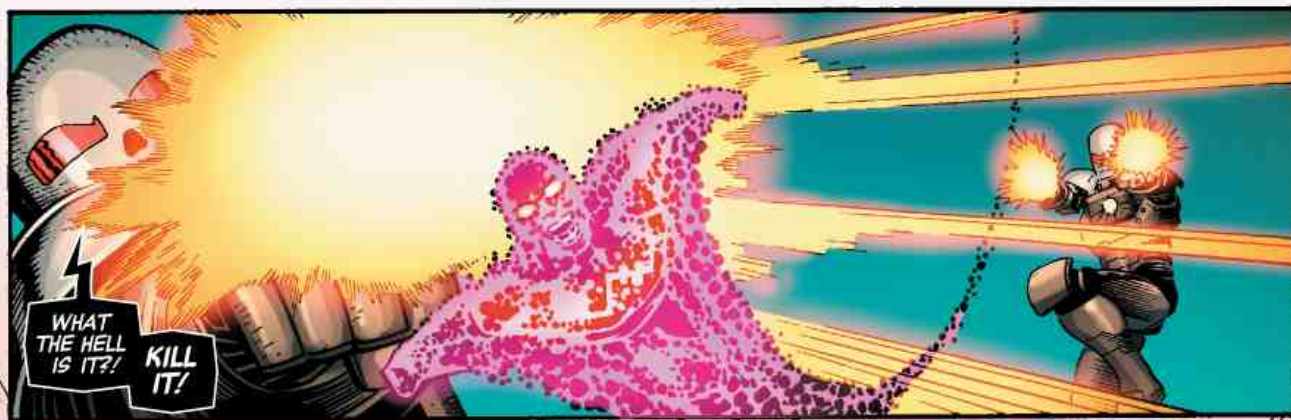
TELL ME SOMETHING, VIZ. HOW COME YOU NEVER GOT STARK TO *FINISH* YOU?

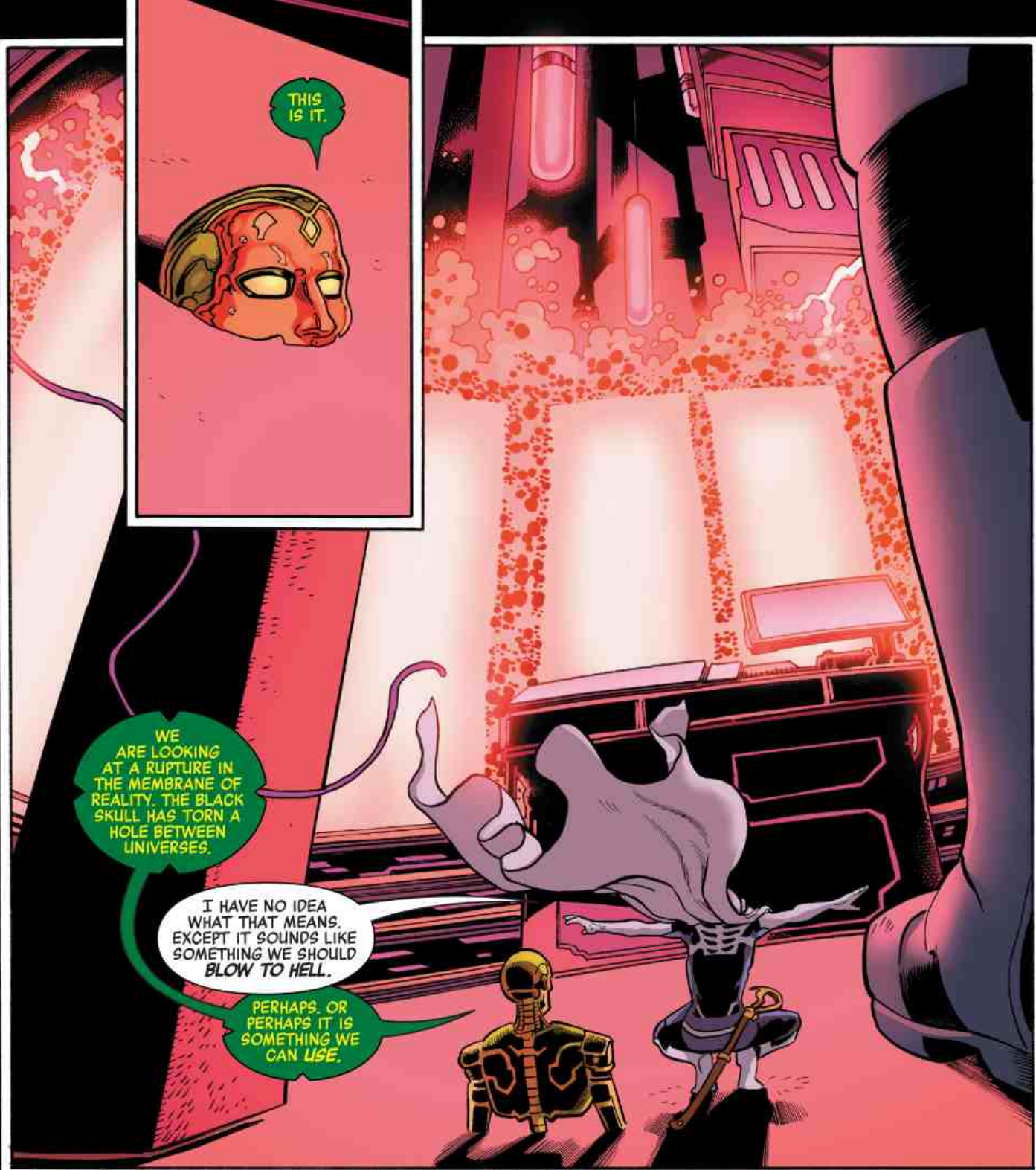
IF COMPLETED, THERE IS THE CHANCE I MIGHT BECOME SOMETHING *MORE* THAN MACHINE. SOMETHING...VERY CLOSE TO A *MAN*.

BUT JUDGING BY THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE...

...PERHAPS IT IS BETTER TO BE HALF A MACHINE...THAN ALL OF A MAN.

SMART ROBOT.







WAR MACHINES!
THE MOON HAS JUDGED
YOUR CRIMES AGAINST
THE EARTH!

AND
THE FIST OF
KHONSHU COMES TO
CARRY OUT THE
SENTENCE!

STEP UP
AND TAKE A
FACEFUL OF
JUSTICE!



A FRIGHTENED
CHILD! WHO
COMES FOR ME
IN HIS CAR!

AS IF THE
BLACK SKULL
IS A TEENAGE
GIRL IN NEED OF
A RIDE TO
THE DANCE!

YOU DON'T
EVEN HAVE THE
COURAGE TO FACE
YOURSELF, ROBBIE
REYES, LET
ALONE ME!



WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO SEE THE
TRUE FACE
OF POWER,
BOY?!



I HAVE TAMED
THE WILD LION
OF THE STARS, AS
ONLY A TRUE ARYAN
OF IRON WILL
COULD DO!

AND
NOW WE...
WE WILL...

...SUCK
THE MARROW
FROM YOUR
FLAMING
BONES!

NO! DOWN,
DOG! THE BOY
WILL TALK BEFORE
HE DIES.

TELL ME
EVERYTHING,
ROBBIE REYES.
TELL ME THE
GREATEST
SECRET OF
ALL...

WHO IS
AVENGER
PRIME?!

SO THERE I
AM, SMALLER
THAN EVER. AN
ANT THE SIZE
OF AN ATOM.

I KNOW IF I
GO ANY SMALLER,
THERE'LL BE NO
COMING BACK.

SO I FIGURE
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH.
TO GET A GOOD
RUNNING START.

FOR THE
BIGGEST
PUNCH IN THE
HISTORY OF
THE PLANET.



MY NAME IS
TONY STARK.
THEY CALL ME
THE ANT-MAN.

AND HOLY
HOPING CRAP
AM I GREAT
AT RESCUES.

I'M ABOUT
TO PASS OUT,
RIDER! WHATEVER
YOU'RE GONNA DO,
NOW'S THE...

BUT LIKE HE SAID,
THE GHOST RIDER
ISN'T INTERESTED
IN LEAVING.

HE HAS A PLAN
OF HIS OWN. OR
ACTUALLY, IT'S
THE *OTHER* GUY.

GAAAARRRGH!!!

THE **DEATHLOK**.
THE CYBORG. HE
REMOVELY WIRED
HIMSELF INTO THE
RIDER'S NERVOUS
SYSTEM.

WHICH MEANS
DEATHLOK IS THE
ONE ABSORBING
EVERY OUNCE OF
THE AGONY
THE BLACK SKULL
IS DISHING OUT.

WHICH LEAVES
THE GHOST RIDER'S
MIND CLEAR OF
EVERYTHING...

...EXCEPT
THE FIRES OF
VENGEANCE.

WHAT
DOES A NAZI
KNOW ABOUT
CONTROL?

ALL
YOU ARE IS
WEAKNESS
WITH THE
INSTINCTS OF
AN ANIMAL.

LET
ME SHOW
YOU WHAT
I KNOW.

YOU THINK
THIS SYMBIOTE IS A
WEAPON. A SWORD
YOU CAN WIELD.

BUT
IT'S MORE LIKE
A LIVING VESSEL,
WITH YOU AS
ITS ENGINE.

IT'S A
VEHICLE.

GAAGH!
IMPOSSIBLE!

AND
I AM THE
ALL-RIDER.

WHICH
MEANS I
CAN DRIVE
ANYTHING.

NOOOOOO!!!





THAT... IS
THE SMELL
OF HOPE.

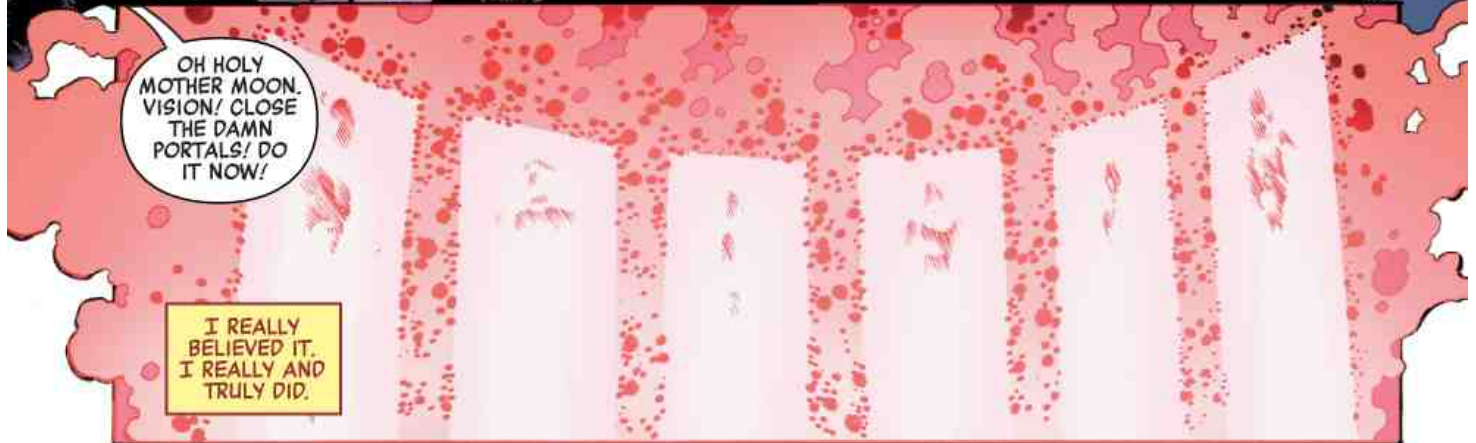
DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
Y'ALL... BUT I COULD
GET USED TO
THIS WHOLE
"AVENGING"
THING.



I AM
GONNA
THROW UP
SO HARD!

AND THEN
I WANNA
DRIVE THIS
CRAZY
CAR!

STARK!
DON'T KNOW
WHAT THE HELL
YOU'RE GOING ON
ABOUT, BUT THE
FIGHT AIN'T
FINISHED!





FOR IF
ONE SKULL
FALLS...

...A
THOUSAND
MORE SHALL
TAKE HIS
PLACE.

Turns out
the greatest
trick the devil
ever pulled...
was letting us
think we could
actually win.

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT

"THE RETURN OF THE GODDESSES OF THUNDER"



Atli, Ellisiv and Frigg are the granddaughters of **Old King Thor**, last seen during the end of Jason Aaron's landmark *Thor* run. Now the Goddesses of Thunder are back, sailing the wild cosmic seas, chasing the thunder that echoes across universes...and hunting for fallen hammers.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! Email us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your messages "okay to print" for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

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